

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2001 LB 129, 163

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 163 advances. LB 129.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 129 was introduced by Senator Schrock. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 4th of this year, referred to the Natural Resources Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on LB 129

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill was presented to the Natural Resources Committee by the Department of Natural Resources. The bill removes the cap from projects eligible to receive assistance from the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. Current law sets the cap at \$17 million. It does not mean that additional state funds would be expended on any particular project. A couple of projects that may run over that might be the Antelope Valley Project or Lake Wanahoo. And Section 2 of the bill makes it clear that a decision or recommendation by the director or staff under the Nebraska Resources Development Fund does not prejudice any future decisions the director or staff may have to make under other statutory considerations. In other words if something else is brought to light at a later point in time, they could change their mind on an issue. In Section 3, subsection (8), the department would be allowed to issue a temporary permit for not more than ten acre-feet of water for road construction or public use construction. Applications for this permit must contain the location of the diversion, the location of the use, a description of the project, the amount of water they use, and a contact person. Of course, this section is very...is being watched very closely by our road contractors. Section 3, subsection (9), no permit will be required by a fire department or emergency response service for water diverted for the purposes of extinguishing a fire in progress in an emergency situation. That came about because of a fire in Smithfield, Nebraska, where the fire department was pumping out of the